

Clean Version of Replacement Claims and New Claims:

1 (Amended) A double belt transport system having an upstream end and a downstream end for moving a mailpiece from the upstream end into a printing area of a printer, wherein the mailpiece has a lower surface and an opposing upper surface to be printed by a print head located in the printing area, said transport system comprising:

an upper looping belt having a straight section covering the printing area, wherein the straight section defines a registration plane regarding the print head; and

a lower looping belt having a mailpiece intake section running from the upstream end towards the downstream end, wherein the mailpiece intake section and the straight section form an ingest nip so that the tension of the lower belt provides a normal force between the mailpiece and the upper belt for providing a friction force to move the mailpiece into the printing area for printing.

9. (Amended) A method of moving a mailpiece from an upstream end towards a downstream end into a printing area, wherein the mailpiece has a surface to be printed by a printer in the printing area having a length, said method comprising the steps of:

providing an upper looping belt having a straight section running the length of the printing area for defining a registration plane for printing; and providing a lower looping belt having a mailpiece intake section running from the upstream end towards the downstream end, wherein the mailpiece intake section of the lower looping belt and the straight section of the upper looping belt form an ingest nip so that the tension of the lower belt provides a normal force between the mailpiece and the upper belt in order to provide a friction

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force to move the mailpiece into the gap towards the printing area so that the mailpiece surface is substantially located on the registration plane.

11. (Amended) A printer having an upstream end and a downstream end for printing a mailpiece on an upper surface thereof, said printer comprising:

a print head located above a printing area; and

a double belt transport system for moving the mailpiece from the upstream end into the printing area, wherein the mailpiece has a lower surface opposing the upper surface, and wherein the double belt transport system comprises:

an upper looping belt having a straight section covering the printing area, wherein the straight section defines a registration plane regarding the print head; and

a lower looping belt having a mailpiece intake section running from the upstream end towards the downstream end, wherein the mailpiece intake section and the straight section form an ingest nip so that the tension of the lower belt provides a normal force between the mailpiece and the upper belt for providing a friction force to move the mailpiece into the printing area for printing.

17. (Amended) The printer of claim 11, further comprising a velocity measurement mechanism operatively connected to at least one of the looping belts so as to match printing speed of the print head to moving speed of the mailpiece in the printing area.

18. The system claimed in claim 1, further including:

a tensioning idler to maintain tension for the lower belt.

19. The method claimed in claim 9, wherein the tension of the lower belt is maintained by a tensioning idler.

20. The printer claimed in claim 11, further comprising:
a tensioning idler to maintain tension for the lower belt.

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Concluded*